At 9:02 KNPS President Phyllis Scherich welcomed everyone to Ft. Scott.

Rondi introduced Lindsay Madison from the Ft. Scott Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Madison welcomed everyone to the town and provided a gift bag and downtown discount card.

It was noted that we had attendees from at least four other states: Oklahoma, Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska. We appreciate them coming to share with us.

Rondi recognized the others who helped her with the Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) planning: Cindy Ford, Ken O’Dell, Craig Freeman, Krista Dahlinger, Phyllis Scherich and the other board members. Phyllis again thanked Rondi and all of her hard work.

Phyllis recognized Mickey Delfelder as the tech guy and thanked him.

Phyllis recognized Phyllis Luedke and Emmett Sullivan because their photos are the slideshow showing on the screen.

Phyllis asked that all attendees stand up and introduce themselves and identify their favorite wildflower.

Phyllis updated the members on Saturday and Sunday outing locations.

Krista explained the rules of the silent auction and raffle items, which are good fundraisers for KNPS. Phyllis explained the concept of the KNPS traveling plaque which is in the silent auction.

Phyllis described the membership regions and asked the region leaders to stand and be recognized.

Phyllis recognized Jay Anderson (not in attendance) for being our webmaster.

Phyllis recognized Krista and Matthew on keeping the events calendar updated.
Phyllis recognized Mike Haddock, Craig Freeman and Janet Bare (not in attendance) for their book *Kansas Wildflowers and Weeds* being named on “Notable Books of Kansas for 2016” list. It was Mike Haddock’s second time on the list. Iralee Barnard was on the list in 2015 for her book *Field Guide to the Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska.*

Craig came up to discuss the election of officers. Members have the opportunity to vote on the slate of board members. Craig reminded everyone that all members can be board members; there is a lot that members can do to volunteer and help sustain the organization.

Craig presented a slate of board members for a three-year term (2016-2019):

- **Continuing service:**
  - Krista Dahlinger, Mulvane
  - Brad Guhr, Newton
  - Mike Haddock, Manhattan
  - Jeff Hansen, Topeka
  - Michael Heffron, Reece
  - Dee Scherich, McPherson
  - Phyllis Scherich, McPherson

- **New to the board:**
  - Lorna Harder, Hesston
  - Mike Kaye, Topeka
  - Andrew Mitchell, Horton
  - Chad Phillips, Soldier

Phyllis called for vote; the vote passed unanimously.

Craig thanked members of the board who are stepping down: Fred Coombs (11 years), Nancy Coombs (11 years; past secretary), Chelsea Erikson (6 years), Ken O'Dell (8 years), Valerie Wright (17 years, past president 2004-06). These folks received a hearty round of applause.

Craig then introduced the officers who were elected to a one-year term at the previous day’s board meeting:

- Secretary: Mickey Delfelder, Topeka
- Treasurer: Krista Dahlinger, Mulvane
- Vice-President: Craig Freeman, Lawrence
- President: Phyllis Scherich, McPherson
Craig told the audience that we are always on the outlook for new board members. If anyone is interested, they should contact a current board member.

Valerie Wright presented the report from the Awards Committee:

- Stephen L. Timme Excellence in Botany Award -- an award given to someone who has made an important contribution to botany in the state of Kansas in the form of research or education, was not awarded this year.
- Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award -- an award given to an individual or organization for a project promoting the use of native plants in the landscape, was not awarded this year.
- Mary Bancroft Memorial Scholarship -- awarded to support graduate student research that enhances our understanding of native plant species or their ecosystems and conservation; the amount varies depending on the budget and is open to all students at Kansas colleges.
  - Craig recognized a K-State student Matthew Gilliard, Ph.D in Biology, as this year's recipient. Craig detailed Matthew's qualifications: "Matthew is a doctoral candidate working in the Division of Biology studying Experimental natural selection of big bluestem ecotypes across the Great Plains. His research is attempting to understand the potential responses of various races of big bluestem to changing environmental conditions across the Great Plains."
- Sheldon H. Cohen Award for Outstanding Service to KNPS -- an award given to an individual who has made an important contribution to KNPS.
  - Craig recognized a very surprised Phyllis and Dee Scherich of McPherson, Kansas as the recipients of the 2016 Sheldon H. Cohen Award for Outstanding Service Award. The nomination form details their contributions: "Phyllis and Dee have worked as a cordial but focused and efficient team since both joining the board in 2004. They are among the Society’s strongest cheerleaders and supporters, promoting KNPS through print and word of mouth, recruiting new members, and engaging in innumerable other activities that have had significant and lasting impacts on the organization. Phyllis has assisted as newsletter editor, served as the Secretary from 2005-2009, President Elect from 2013-2015, and is our current President, this all presumably with Dee’s blessing. Dee, though usually shunning the limelight, is the stalwart wagon master, ensuring that the wagon train stays on the trail (or not), on schedule (or not), and is suitably provisioned for any exigency. Phyllis and Dee expertly organized two highly successful Annual Wildflower Weekend in the Red Hills, in Pratt in 2014 and Coldwater in 2005, and have worked behind the scenes to help ensure the success of many other AWWs. Anyone who has been involved with organizing an annual meeting knows the amount
of work and dedication this requires. Phyllis and Dee always go the extra mile to ensure that no detail is overlooked, helping to set the standards that we’ve come to expect from our annual meetings. But most significantly, they are great friends to all us in the Kansas Native Plant Society, and it is an honor to recognize them for their exceptional service with this award.”

Phyllis announced that Plains coreopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*) was selected as the 2017 Wildflower of the Year and Cobaea penstemon (*Penstemon cobaea*) as the 2018 Wildflower of the Year.

Valerie Wright announced the photo contest winners:

**FLORA**
1. Sand Lily — John Morrison
2. Breadroot Scurfpea — David Welfelt
3. Canada Wild Rye with Dew — David Welfelt

**FAUNA**
1. Bullfrog in Duckweed — James Bresnahan
2. Indigo Bunting in Willow — James Bresnahan
3. Monarch Enjoying Fall Asters — Phyllis Luedke

**SCENERY**
1. Salt Fork Sundown — John Morrison
2. Baker Wetlands — James Bresnahan
3. Sand Creek Trail — David Welfelt

**PEOPLE**
1. Wildflower Tour Small Groups — John Morrison
2. Wildflower Tours at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve — David Welfelt
3. Tallgrass Prairie — Phyllis Scherich

**GARDEN**
1. Monarch Waystation — Andrew Mitchell
2. Little Bluestem Garden — James Bresnahan
3. Wild Senna Shrubs — Nancy Calhoun

**WILDFLOWER OF THE YEAR**
1. Golden Alexanders — Phyllis Luedke
2. Golden Alexanders — Phyllis Luedke
3. Golden Alexanders — Emmett Sullivan

No “Best in Show” winner was selected this year. Check out the KNPS Shutterfly account for all of the submitted photos.
Phyllis thanked Valerie and her committee on the work in selecting the winners.

At 10:15 we took a refreshments and silent auction break.

At 10:35 Phyllis updated the attendees on next year’s board meetings and AWW location:

- Spring/Summer Board Meeting & 2-day event - Cedar Point - May 19-20 - Fri & Sat
- Fall Board Meeting & AWW - Sept 8, 9 & 10 (tentative)

At 10:40 Rondi introduced our guest speaker Betsy Betros.

Betsy presented “Listen to the Hum, See the Beauty, Feel the Love! The birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees… and a thing called love…” The highlights include:

- Pollinators are more than just butterflies. The relationship between plants and pollinators feeds most of the world. One in three mouthfuls of our foods are dependant on pollinators.
- Butterflies, bees, wasps, and others (maybe even slugs!) are pollinators. Plants have developed mechanisms to lure pollinators to them, including color, shape and/or fragrance.
- Moths have a great sense of smell, butterflies do not. Flowers that depend on moths generally only release fragrance at night.
- There are 160,000 or more species of flies worldwide; it’s an extremely important group of pollinators.
- Beetles are also extremely important and historically predated bees; they also pollinate many fragrant flowers.

Betsy concluded her presentation at 11:46.

Phyllis thanked Betsy for her presentation and encouraged people to continue bidding on silent auction items and enjoy the lunch.

Phyllis asked everyone to meet at 1:00 and we will leave at 1:15 for afternoon outing.

Phyllis concluded by thanking everyone for attending.